(iii) Adjustments from the pending bills of the transporters.

(iv) Vigorous follow up with the State Government of J&K; and

(v) Handing over the case to CBI for investigations.

(c) Prior to February, 1994, the trucks were being requisitioned from the local Jammu truck union for despatches of foodgrains/sugar to valley. The truck union was not prepared to execute any agreement with FCI and there was no accountability of loss in transit. Coupled with it, due to the law and order situation there has always been delay in reconcilitation of trucks despatched to valley since many a times the trucks were either diverted or were lost due to law and order problems. As a result a total of 1712 trucks remained to be reconciled between the period 1989-90 to 1995-96. Out of these the number of unreconciled trucks at present is 227.

(d) Transport Union of Jammu, has deposited an amount of Rs. 6.48 lakhs being the cost of 12 trucks of foodgrains/sugar. The process of recovery of losses is continuing vigorously.

(e) In case any FCI Officer is found lacking in his responsibilities in the light of the investigations of the Police and CBI, appropriate action will be taken against the concerned officer.

(f) FCI has made its own transport arrangement since April, 1996 and these contractors are responsible for any stocks lost in transit.

गेहूं आयात के मामले में खाद्य अपमिश्रण निवारण अधिनियम में निर्धारित मानदण्डों का उल्लंघन

923. **श्री सोमपाल:** क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) इस वर्ष के दौरान आयात किए गए अथवा किए जाने वाले गेहूं की मात्रा तथा मूल्य का देश-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या कनाडा से आयात किए गए गेहूं के मामले में वांछित गुणवत्ता तथा खाद्य अपमिश्रण निवारण अधिनियम में निर्धारित मानदण्डों के उल्लंघन के संबंध में 31 जनवरी, 1997 के "स्टेट्समैन" में प्रकाशित समाचार सही है;

(ग) क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने सरकार को इस संबंध में आगाह किया है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और ऐसे मानदण्डों को शिथिल किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ङ) इस प्रकार आयातित गेहूं की मात्रा कितनी है और क्या ऐसा गेहूं कनाडा के अलावा किसी अन्य देश से आयात किया गया था?

खाद्य मंत्री तथा नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): (क) सरकार ने गेहूं की घरेलू उपलब्धता को बढ़ाने के लिए 2 मिलियन टन तक गेहूं का आयात करने का निर्णय लिया है। भारतीय राज्य व्यापार निगम ने 14.2.1997 तक 16.75 लाख टन गेहूं आयात के लिए ठेकों को अंतिम रूप दिया है जिसकी दरें निम्नानुसार है:-

स्रोत	मात्रा (लाख टन में) किए गए ठेके	मूल्य (अमेरिकी डालर प्रति टन में)
आस्ट्रेलिया	13.25	148-156 (जहाज तक निष्प्रभार)
कनाडा	2.50	152.50 (जहाज तक निष्प्रभार)
अर्जेन्टीना	1.00	173.00 (सी. एंड एफ.)

(ख) से (ङ) जी, नहीं, भारतीय राज्य व्यापार निगम ने यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए पर्याप्त सावधानियां बरती हैं कि आयातित गेहूं खाद्य अपमिश्रण निवारण अधिनियम में निर्धारित किए गए पैरामीटरों और भारत सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित सफाई और संगरोध संबंधी मानदण्डों के अनुरूप हो। ठेकों की शर्तों के अनुसार, कनाडा और आस्ट्रेलिया में जहाज में लादे जाने वाले गेहूं की लदान से पूर्व सरकारी एजेंसियों द्वारा और अर्जेन्टीना में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय साख वाले गुणवत्ता सर्वेक्षकों द्वारा गुणवत्ता की जांच की जाएगी।

Imported substandard Canadian Wheat

924. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat was recently imported from Canada and other countries;

(b) if so, whether the import consignment from Canada has failed the test as per the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and has been found to be of substandard quality;

(c) if so, whether no pre-shipment tests of the wheat were conducted; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) A quantity of 16.75 lakh MT has so far been contracted for import from Australia (13.25 lakh MT); Canada (2.5 lakh MT) and Argentina (1 lakh MT).

(b) The shipment of wheat from Canada would begin only from the month of March, 1997 onwards and, as such, the question of import consignments from Canada failing the test as per provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per contract terms with the foreign suppliers, the wheat to be shipped has to undergo pre-shipment quality inspection by the Government agencies in Canada and Australia, and by internationally reputed surveyors in the case of Argentina.

Export of Wheat to Afghanistan and Maldives

925. SHRI O.P. KOHLI:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered export of wheat to Afghanistan and Maldives;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Food have given their concurrence to this export;

(c) whether Government have imported 1.25 million tonnes of wheat from Canada in January, 1997;

(d) the reasons why these exports were ordered, when the country is importing wheat at double the price prevailing in the country; and

(e) the reasons why export of wheat to Nepal was not allowed?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) After considering different aspects the Government has allowed exports of 30,000 MT of wheat to Afghanistan and 2,500 MT of wheat flour to Maldives.

(c) Government has decided to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat during 1996-97. A quantity of 16.25 lakh tonnes has already been contracted for import, as on 14.2.97. The quantity of wheat contracted for import from Canada is 2.50 lakh MTs.

(d) The export of 30,000 MTs of wheat to Afghanistan was allowed for humanitarian purpose on the request of the International Red Cross. The export of 2,500 MTs of wheat flour to Maldives was allowed in view of the small quantity involved as a special case. The average landed cost of imported wheat at Indian ports is Rs. 6227 per tonne and thus not double of the price prevailing in the country.

(e) A request from Government of Nepal for making 25,000 MTs of wheat available at PDS price was received. Government has not taken a decision on this request so far.

Normative cost of Sugar Factories

926. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the normative cost of sugar factories have increased after 1993; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government have not prescribed any normative cost of sugar factories though the financial institutions while assessing the projects have been going by a certain standard taking into account the financing pattern and the prospect of return on capital. The financial institutions are generally concerned with the debt-equity ratio and the financial viability of the project. Since the State Governments contribute a large part of equity of the cooperatives and also have to guarantee the loans, the question of availability of total finance for a particular unit